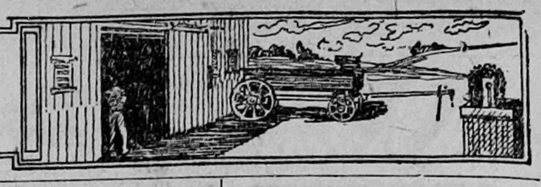
NEWS AND VIEWS OF FARMERS



CARING FOR TURKEY POULTS

Dark, Damp Quarters and Lice Responsible for Nealy All Deaths of Young Turkeys.

ANNA GALICHE.

Turkey hens begin laying early in the spring, and as they usually make their nests on the ground, it is not advisable to let them hatch the first lot of eggs, unless one can get them to sit in some sheltered place.

If the hen sits in a cold, damp nest the eggs will not hatch well. This is often the cause of weak, sickly poults.

While turkey hens make the best mothers, it is a good plan to hatch the first clutch of eggs with chicken hens; then by the time the turkey hens have finished the second laying the weather is somewhat warmer and they may be allowed to sit.

See that the hens have good nests and are kept free of lice. If the hens are allowed to sit in old nest-boxes they will soon become regular louse incubators. Then when the little turkeys come out your trouble will begin in earnest.

It doesn't take many lice to kill a young turkey. A young turkey cannot endure these life-sapping creatures as long as a chick can.

If the feed is all right, and still they do not seem to thrive, the chances are that they have vermin of some sort.

Spread the wings out and examine well on both the inside and outside. The latter is a favorite hiding place, and it sometimes happens that no lice can be found anywhere else. However, it is not uncommon to find the large lice wherever there are pin-feathers. Head lice attack little turkeys almost as soon as they are hatched.

Last year we pinned our faith to a so-called "louse-killer," and before we knew it our turkeys and chickens were literally alive with lice. Whether it had lost its strength or was bogus we are not prepared to say, but every time it was applied the little fowls became so sick that some of them came near dying.

It had a worse effect upon the turkeys and chickens than it did upon the lice. Then we began to use lard, as we used to do years ago, before "louse-killers" came into general use.

Up to this time we had lost fifteen turkeys and twice that number of chickens, all because the "louse-killer" failed to kill lice. No more turkeys or chicks died, but thousands of lice did. Great care must be exercised lest a little too much is applied. Just a little is enough, and it must be put on where it will reach the lice.

Take a little on the end of the finger and apply wherever the lice are found. Olive oil may be used instead of lard. Lice cannot live long in either, and both are harmless to the little fowls unless too much is used.

The grease should not touch the bare spot under the wings if it can be avoided, and the head should not be greased unless one is certain that either lice or nits are present.

A young turkey needs sunshine. Some people make a practice of shutting their turkeys up in close, dark coops for the first week or two after they are hatched.

These are the people whose turkeys die "without any cause."

CARE IN FEEDING MILCH COWS

Milch cows require different feed than beef cattle. You should not feed much fat-forming foods, as your cows would lay on fat instead of producing milk. Feed more silage or roots in the winter.

Daily feed for a 1000-pound cow: Forty pounds of silage, seven pounds of clover hay and eight pounds of grain.

The cows that are soon to freshen should be fed on succulent feed, such as silage or roots, bran, linseed meal with a little oats. Keep the bowels open and do not feed very heavy on grain just before or after calving.

After calving give bran mashes and warm the drinking water for a few days. Allow the calf to suck for about two days and then feed the mother's milk from a pail for about two weeks, about three quarts twice a day; after that reduce it with skim-milk or warm water, so that at the end of the fourth week the calf will be getting all skim-milk or half whole milk and half warm water, with some reliable stock tonic to aid digestion.

Keep a supply of good clover or alfalfa hay within reach and also some ground oats, with a little linseed meal mixed with it.

After the calf eats the ground feed gradually get him used to eating whole oats, as this is the best feed for him up to 6 months old.

The heifers should not be bred until 15 or 18 months old.—H. H. Shepard.

TREATMENT FOR ROUP

Roup is a contagious catarrh and will, unless immediately checked, go through the entire flock. Every affected bird should be separated from the rest at once. The swelling on the head should be opened with a sharp instrument and the wound treated with an antiseptic, such as listerine, or one part carbolic acid to twenty parts water. A 5 per cent solution of sulphate of copper injected into the nostrils, the cleft of the palate, the eyes and the wounds made by opening the swellings is said to be very good.

Sometimes roup takes the form of diphtheria and is more violent than ordinary roup. Sometimes children take it from poultry. It is very difficult to cure, and if this disease got into my own flock I would kill every affected bird and burn its body. You will save time and probably a part of your flock by killing all the diseased birds and burning them.

Put the rest of the flock in warm, dry quarters, and before putting them in burn a little sulphur in the building, first closing all the openings. Do not put the birds into the building for at least five hours after the burning of the sulphur, during which time it should be thoroughly ventilated.

Senator A. D. Stephens has hit upon a novel plan of filling the Crookston (Minn.) School of Agriculture. He promises to loan any son of a farmer enough money to pay his expenses provided his father will give him the use of five acres of land and the son promises to cultivate the land and pay back the loan. Many have even now availed themselves of the plan.

ABOUT HENS AND EGGS

When cholera appears in the flock, give no water except that in which pokeroot has been boiled. This is both a preventive and a cure. An Illinois man says one of his hens laid an egg two and seven-eighths inches long and one and fifteen-sixteenths inches wide, the measurement being taken with calipers.

One man will win with one kind of hen and another man with some other breed. It is with hens as it is with cows. We should choose the breed we like the best and then stay with it.

Fowls are naturally hardy, and contagion in a flock is due to carelessness on the part of the poultry keeper. This is proved by the fact that expert poultry raisers have very few sick chickens.

Hens need a better place on which to roost than the trees around the house. Of course, they may survive there; but merely living and returning a profit are two different things.

Don't stop feeding the hens shells just because they are out of doors and can shift for themselves. There is no line, not even an imaginary one, between the days when the hen likes shells and when she does not. All days are alike in that respect.

A woman in Vermont writes that from sixty pullets and twelve yearling Rhode Island hens she sold last year eggs to the amount of $262.62, not counting the eggs used in a family of four. Feed, advertising, etc., cost $94.77, making a gain of $167.85. These hens laid 8,745 eggs.

To have the chickens mature rapidly a proper type of breeding fowl should be obtained. This type consists of fowls of medium size and broad and blocky in shape, like the Plymouth Rock and Wyandottes. The chickens should be frequently fed, and a sufficient quantity of food given each time to satisfy them.

FARMERS WHO SUCCEED

There is always a good chance for the man that does not know all there is to be known about farming, but wants to know more, and the one that says, "I believe if anybody can do it I can!"

Of all hopeless cases in the world none is more so than the man who thinks he has no more to learn. If everybody were like such a man things would come to a dead standstill. The live man, the man that makes the world move, is the one who sees that there is something beyond and who is willing to try to reach that thing.

Take the man who says "My place looks pretty well this spring, but I'll make it look better," or the one who tells you "My crops are good—never better—but I can do still greater things!" There you have the secret of progress in farming.

Go past the farms of those men a few years from now and you will scarcely know them. Everywhere you will note improvements. There will be better buildings and more of them. The fences will be kept up better. The crops will certainly stand better. Things will be looking up.

Why is it not just as easy to do that way as it is to sag back and say, "I am all right. None of my neighbors get better crops than I do. I have a good living. Let it go at that."

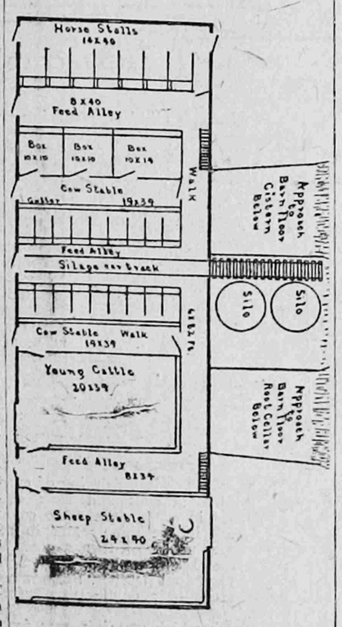
This is not ideal farming, for the fact is the man who talks that way has no ideal. He is not working toward anything better than he now has. The world needs idealists among farmers, just as it does among artists, poets and literary men.

The man with an ideal is the man other men love to follow.

A TENNESSEE BARN

This barn was planned for the large farm of the Paulist Fathers and is 40x120 feet. It has an 8-foot basement and a 20-foot superstructure. The basement has 7 horse stalls, 3 box stalls, 18 cow stalls, open stable for young cattle and a large sheep stable. A cistern is constructed under one approach and a root cellar under the other, while two silos are placed between the approaches.

The barn has two driveways on the



main floor and three double ways for hay and grain.

While this barn is built on a farm of 1,400 acres, there are many smaller farms that could be much benefited by a barn this size. The day has long since gone by when progressive farmers can get along without good barns in which to store the provender of harvest time and give farm animals protection from the cold storms of winter.

Ever have any trouble about getting back tools loaned to neighbors? If you have, and even if you haven't, put your name on all your farm tools. It's easy. Just take a little tallow or beeswax, melt it and spread over the place on which you want your name. Write the name down through the wax with a big needle or awl and pour a few drops of nitric acid over the letter you have made. Leave for a few moments, then wipe off the wax and your name will be on the iron to stay.

A LITTLE PEACH ORCHARD

Is Possible Nearly Everywhere if the Soil Needs of the Trees Are Closely Studied.

There are scores of communities in which half of the residents grow their own peaches and the other half buy or lament the fact that they can't grow peaches.

Peaches are in a way fitful, yet the chances are that many of those who bewail their location might have as many as their neighbors by exercising a little care.

The majority of the little orchards are natural fruit. Whether it pays to depend upon this with budded trees now so cheap is a question worth considering; but it certainly pays much better than to do without fruit.

It was once thought that only sandy soil would grow peaches. They have succeeded nicely on stiff clay if well enriched and cultivated. A sandy or clayey loam is preferable, and must not be too highly fertilized, as the peach is naturally a quick-growing tree.

A hillside, naturally well drained, is a favored location for peach trees. The frost does not strike them so readily as on lower ground. But beware of too sunny exposures, or else the first warm days will coax out the buds, to be blasted by frost.

As peach trees develop and mature rapidly, they are correspondingly short lived, and the owner of a good orchard to-day must plant new trees for a few years hence. It is a constant succession of growth and decay.

No more satisfactory field can be chosen for investigation a la Burbank, and it is along a line which is sure to prove profitable, though no world-renowned variety may be evolved.

If peach growing is an experiment, it is perhaps wise to restrict it mainly to seedlings. Should it prove a success in your orchard, you will want to add some nursery stock, which is, save in some stray instances, of better quality.

For market purposes named fruit only is salable, and the surplus, even though small, will balance up on the sugar used in home consumption. This alone is quite an item.

In selecting nursery trees, choice should be in a measure made according to the time of ripening. A doubtful location a smaller proportion of the very early and very late is preferable.

Choose freestones for the main crop. The yellow-fleshed varieties are the best sellers, and as a rule the best for canning. Early Crawford is one of the best early varieties. Elberta stands high in the list for the main crop.

It is easy to put the pits of some choice fruit into a bag and let them freeze, thus helping the germs to break forth, and then plant in some suitable place, a seedling bearing fruit in a very few years.

Seedlings differ from the parent, but as a rule the finer the peach selected for seed the better the quality of the seedling.

FOR BETTER DIRT ROADS

With a sandy soil and a subsoil of clay or clay and gravel plow deep so as to raise and mix the clay with the surface soil and sand.

The combination forms a sand-clay road at a trifling expense.

If the road be entirely of sand a mistake will be made if it is plowed, unless clay can be added.

Such plowing would merely deepen the sand, and at the same time break up the small amount of hard surface material which may have formed.

If the subsoil is clay and the surface scant in sand or gravel, plowing should not be resorted to, as it would result in a clay surface rather than one of sand or gravel.

A road foreman must know not only what to plow and what not to plow, but how and when to plow.

If the road is of the kind which according to the above instructions should be plowed over its whole width the best method is to run the first furrow in the middle of the road and work out to the sides, thus forming a crown.

Results from such plowing are the greatest in the spring or early summer.

In ditches a plow can be used to good advantage, but should be followed by a scraper or grader.

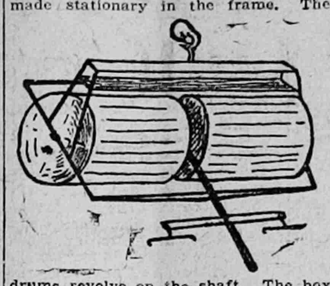
To make wide, deep ditches nothing better than the ordinary drag scraper has yet been devised.

For hauls under 100 feet or in making "fills" it is especially serviceable.

The Department of Agriculture is watching closely the outcome of the experiments with camphor trees both in Texas and in Florida. Some of the promoters of the industry in these states claim that the profits from these trees sometimes amount to $450 per acre.

A HOME-MADE ROLLER

The frame of this roller is made of 4x4-inch scantling. The brace extending from frame to tongue is made from an old wagon tire. The drums are 3½ feet in length and are made of old mower wheels on which are bolted 2x4 scantlings. An iron shaft extends the entire length of the two drums and is made stationary in the frame. The



drums revolve on the shaft. The box above the drums and in front of the seat is for extra weight when the weight of the roller is not sufficient to crush the clods.

The seat is an old mower seat bolted on rear end of the tongue so the weight of the driver will balance tongue and take weight off the necks of team.—John S. Pierce.

GROWING YOUR OWN FEED

Home Grown Alfalfa and Cow Pea Hay Found Valuable by Tennessee Dairymen.

Too many dairy farmers are running to the mills and feed stores for supplies for their dairy cows. They know they need concentrates, but do not study the problem of feeding to a conclusion. Down in Tennessee they raise a great deal of cow pea hay and think much of it. Northern farmers might raise more to advantage. They are also beginning to know what alfalfa is down there, and they are feeding it largely in many sections of the state.

The Tennessee experiment station has helped the farmers immensely by experimenting with the different feeds for dairy and beef cattle. The investigators find that the cost of milk can be greatly reduced by replacing a part of the concentrates in the daily ration of the cow with some roughness rich in protein, such as alfalfa or cow pea hay.

It is an advantage to fed a dry roughness, which is intended to replace a part of the concentrates in a ration,

CULTIVATING THE CROP

Do not wait for the corn to get much above the ground before beginning cultivation. A harrow put on just before the plant appears above the surface or immediately afterward kills millions of weeds and prepares the soil for the tender plant when it comes through.

Then the weeders and cultivators should be kept going from this time until the corn is too big to be cultivated with safety. If the season is dry more cultivation is necessary, because it has been demonstrated that the average rainfall is not sufficient to grow a full crop of corn without keeping the moisture under the surface, and the importance of thorough cultivation in dry seasons is therefore apparent.

A fine dust mulch will keep the moisture from evaporating and render the plant food available for the corn roots.

The first cultivation may be deep, but after cultivations should be shallow. The old-fashioned plow ripping along between rows four or five inches deep, tearing and cutting off the roots, has destroyed millions of bushels of corn in times gone by. Most farmers know better now, but there may be yet some unenlightened man, and to him this warning applies.

When the corn plant is three or four feet high the fibrous roots extend from one row to another and form a mat from three to five inches under the surface. When six to eight feet high these roots have formed a complete connection between the rows, and it can easily be understood that a cultivator set five or six inches deep will tear this mat apart and thus greatly injure the growing plant.

SOME ALFALFA POINTERS

Alfalfa grows best on a deep, sandy loam, underlaid by a loose and permeable subsoil.

It will not grow if there is an excess of water in the soil. The land must be well drained. Plow the land deeply—alfalfa is a deep feeder.

Sow alone and screen seed before using to separate the dodder and other weed seeds. Dodder is the worst enemy of alfalfa.

For a hay crop sow twenty to thirty pounds of seed per acre. For a crop of seed sow fourteen to eighteen pounds per acre.

Alfalfa does not attain maturity until the third or fourth year, so do not sow it expecting to get the best results in less time. Keep the weeds mowed and raked off the first season, or they will choke out the crop.

Cut the hay when the first flowers appear. If cut in full bloom the hay will be woody. For seed cut when the middle clusters of the seed pods are dark brown.

Whether or not alfalfa is a hardy, profitable crop in the northern states has not yet been fully demonstrated, but in some instances it has been grown successfully even in Canada.

FOR THE HORSE BREEDER

It should be the aim of every breeder of horses to raise well-bred and well-trained animals.

The offspring of immature, undeveloped animals is inferior to that of matured and full-grown parents.

It is the steady, quiet horse that can do the biggest day's work when the weather is extremely hot.

The origin of many diseases may be traced directly to the filthy quarters in which the animals are kept.

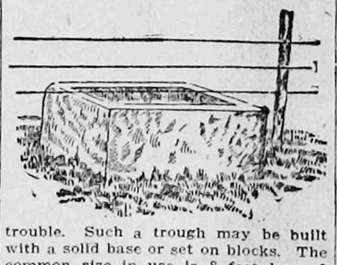
Silage may be fed to horses in small quantities provided it is absolutely sweet. If is not, it is extremely dangerous.

It does not hurt a mare to give her moderate work up to within a week of foaling.

Don't compel the work teams to drink warm water.

A CONCRETE TROUGH

This cut shows a concrete trough so arranged that the stock in two separate fields can obtain water from the same place without interfering or making



trouble. Such a trough may be built with a solid base or set on blocks. The common size in use is 8 feet long, 2 feet wide at top and 1½ feet at bottom, and 1½ feet deep, all inside measurements.

SKIM MILK CALVES

These youngsters are twins and as their mother died in giving birth to them they were raised on the milk of other cows.

At first they were fed from a bottle with a large nursing tube. Soon, however, they learned to drink from the

bottle itself and when a few days old were able to drink from a pail.

They were fed whole milk until three weeks old and then were given one-half skim milk with one-half whole milk and a little bran once a day. When six weeks old they began to nibble oats and hay and soon grew mightily.

IN WEANING PIGS

Take them away in detachments, beginning first with two or three of the plumpest, largest and strongest; then the next strongest batch, leaving the poor ones of the litter to complete the drying off.

The boar ought always to be kept in a pen by himself, preferably away from the other hogs. He should have a good-sized yard in which he can exercise.

If allowed to run with the other hogs he is likely to injure them badly.

Keep him thrifty, but not too fat, or his get will be puny.

Good pigs are not grown and fattened on wind and water.

CHOPPING A USELESS CRUELTY

The cruelty of sawing off the horns of cattle may be entirely avoided by the use of a bit of caustic applied to the starting horns of calves when one week or ten days old. A second application is sometimes, though not generally, necessary.

RIGHT KIND OF BROOD SOW

Few things are more displeasing than to see a lot of heterogenous pigs following a scrub sow. They are unsatisfactory to the feed lot and unprofitable to the farmer.

There is no good excuse for keeping scrub sows. The brood sow should be large, roomy and stand well on her toes. The shoulders should be smooth and deep, back wide and slightly arched. There should be ample room for heart and lungs provided by a wide and deep chest, well-sprung ribs and

straight, deep sides. A good depth of chest and abdomen are especially important in a sow.

If possible the sow should be selected from a large litter. This is apt to insure fecundity. Each sow should have at least twelve well developed teats, thus providing proper nourishment for large litters.

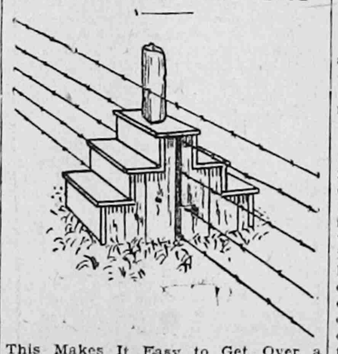
The sow should show quality, but not at the expense of constitution and vigor. When a sow has shown herself to be a prolific breeder she should be retained as long as her reproductive powers are maintained.

HOW TO HANDLE MANURE

When fresh manure is allowed to remain in a heap decomposition commences in a few days. The carbon combines with oxygen in the air, producing carbonic dioxide, which is given off the manure pile. Considerable heat is produced during this process, which dries out the water, and as the water passes out of the manure the dry state causes the nitrogen to pass out. While the entire heap of manure is wet the loss of nitrogen is small, but the waste of the valuable portion is by leaching.

Experience demonstrates that a ton of stable manure exposed for six months will lose almost one-half its weight and 2.7 pounds of nitrogen. When exposed for one year the loss of nitrogen is a little over one-third. If the exposure be continued for two years and over, two-thirds or more of the fertilizing properties would be wasted, leaving not more than 60 cents of value to the ton.

A STAIRWAY FOR WIRE FENCE



This Makes It Easy to Get Over a Barbed Wire Fence.

A MANURE SPREADER PAYS

They Give Better Results Than Are Possible by the Old-Fashioned Fork Method.

BY C. MILLER.

We have never yet heard of a farmer who used a manure spreader who went back to the old-fashioned way of pitching the manure out of a wagon with a fork. The advantages of the spreader over the old way of using a fork are so numerous and so plain that no argument can overcome them. In the first place, spreading manure from a wagon is a dirty and disagreeable job. In the next place, it is utterly impossible to distribute the manure evenly by this method.

By the use of a spreader a man can get over a great deal more ground and the manure will go very much farther because it is evenly distributed.

If you will observe the meadows where you have distributed manure by the forkful, you will see that field presents a spotted appearance, the grass being rank in those places where the manure struck the ground, but scanty and sparse where no manure reached it.

By the use of a wagon a man must stand on the manure while distributing it, and the starting and stopping of the team takes time, and altogether the job is unsatisfactory.

With a manure spreader all that is necessary is to back the machine up next to the back of the barn under the stable window and empty the manure into it daily and then when the box is full mount the wagon, drive out into the field, and without touching the manure with a fork it is quickly and easily distributed.

Spreaders are so arranged that by a little pressure on a lever the amount of manure can be increased on the bare spots and shut off where not so much is needed.

There are plenty of two-horse manure spreaders, but most of them require three horses and sometimes farmers use a double team for the purpose. A good form of spreader is the wagon box type. It is simply a box fitted with the machinery and which will go onto your wagon trucks. They are quickly attached and are light and handy, because they will go anywhere that a wagon will go.

These wagons can easily be handled with two horses. A good way to use this spreader is to have two supports on the outside of the barn near the window upon which the box spreader is placed. But a better way is to suspend the spreader from supports by means of ropes and a pulley and when the box is full run the trucks under, let down the box and drive off.

These machines are somewhat cheaper than the regular spreaders, the difference being from $40 to $60.

HINTS FROM THE HIRED MAN

An Illinois man taught me how to raise and cure sorghum. He puts in two bushels of seed to the acre with a wheat drill. This gives a uniform growth; the plant is small, and the yield is about as heavy as from a thinner seeding.

I never worked on a farm until I was 18 years old. I had always worked in a beef-packing plant in a large city, and I suppose that is where I formed a habit of hustling, which has stuck to me ever since. When I commenced farming I used to listen for the sound of the whistle at dinner time, but I soon learned that in the busy seasons a man cannot put in too many hours. Some of the boys in my neighborhood told me it was a mistake to do any more than I really had to to hold my job, but I take notice that I am now getting $25 per month and my board and washing all the year round, while the other fellows get about $18 and are laid off during the winter.

Farm help is becoming scarcer every year, but I think the farmer himself is largely to blame. Too many farmers regard the hired man as a beast of burden, and give him about the same treatment that they do their mules. How can a farmer expect to keep a good man if he only pays him $20 per month, makes him sleep in a hot loft in the house or in the haymow, expect him to work fifteen hours a day seven days in the week during the summer and fires him in the fall? I notice that the farmer who keeps his hired man all the year round and treats him with the consideration that is due him generally makes money and seldom kicks about the scarcity of labor.

The farmer who leads and does not drive is the man who gets the most work and the best service out of the hired man.

The hired man who does not keep himself neat and clean has no right to expect to sit at the family table.

Soap is cheap and the well is usually handy.

GOOD CONDITION BEFORE LAMBING

Both before and after lambing is an anxious time for the sheep raiser, as he stands to lose considerable or to gain a great deal.

Much is written about the treatment of ewes after lambing and too little is said about giving them extra care beforehand.

If the ewe is thin and weak the lambs always make a bad start, for the milk is deficient both in quantity and quality they are badly nourished. If only one is to be raised it may succeed better than twins, but even a single lamb will have a hard time of it if the ewe is poor.

I know there is danger in having some kinds of stock too fat at the time of producing their young, but very few ewes suffer from that.

It is most undesirable to have the strength of the ewe impaired at the time, as strength is needed to labor successfully, and condition is wanted to provide amply for the lambs. For this reason it would be well to put the breeding ewes under careful surveillance for a time before lambing.

A heavy coat of wool may give the a fat appearance, but if the bones are prominent it is not a good sign. Extra care and superior food daily are really necessary if one would be sure the ewes are in proper condition.

It is much cheaper and more satisfactory to do this than to make great efforts to improve them afterward.—H. R. Gilbert.

Wyoming will have a $25,000 building for the special use of women in the study of domestic science in addition to the other state farm buildings.